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METHOD AND DEVICE FOR PROTECTING DATA STORED
IN A COMPUTING DEVICE

CLAIMS:

1.   A device for protecting data, comprising:

an interface for connection to a computing device;

a data storage;

an encryptor located in-line between said interface and said data storage;

a control system; and

a memory;

wherein said memory includes program data executable on said computing device to perform user authentication, said control system is configured to initially expose said memory to said interface to facilitate user authentication and to expose said encryptor to said interface only upon successful user authentication, and said encryptor is operable to encrypt on the fly data received from said interface and to forward said data once encrypted to said data storage and to decrypt on the fly data received from said data storage and to forward said data once decrypted to said interface.

2.   A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control system is configured to reboot said computing device after successful user authentication and before exposing said encryptor to said interface.

3.   A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said memory comprises a portion of a memory storage system provided with one or more bootable programs.

4.   A device for protecting data, comprising:

a first interface for connection to a computing device;

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a second interface for connection to a data storage;

an encryptor located in-line between said first interface and said second interface;

5   a control system; and

a memory;

wherein said memory includes program data executable on said computing device to perform user authentication, said control system is configured to

10   initially expose said memory to said interface to facilitate user authentication and to expose said encryptor to said interface only upon successful user authentication, and said encryptor is operable to encrypt on the fly data received from said first interface and to

15   forward said data once encrypted to said second interface and to decrypt on the fly data received from said second interface and to forward said data once decrypted to said first interface.

20   5.   A device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said control system is configured to reboot said computing device after successful user authentication and before exposing said encryptor to said interface.

25   6.   A method of protecting data, comprising:

locating an encryptor in-line between a data storage and an interface to a computing device;

exposing a memory to said interface to facilitate user authentication;

30   exposing said encryptor to said interface only upon successful user authentication;

encrypting on the fly data received from said first interface and forwarding said data once encrypted to said second interface; and

35   decrypting on the fly data received from said second interface and forwarding said data once decrypted to said first interface.